publishing bi-monthly newsletter entitled "Akshay Urja" and quarterly newsletter "RESOURCE", A set of 12 booklets on various new and renewable energy technologies and, programme including solar energy has been brought-out and widely circulated. For the last 2 years, Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas is being organized in all the districts, State capitals and national capital of Delhi on 20th August in which human chians/rallies, quiz, essay and painting competitions, seminars are organized to popularize renewable energy including solar energy. In order to create awareness, District Advisory Committees (DACs) have already been set-up in more than 500 districts through-out the country. A mass awareness campaign for Solar Water Heating Systems and Akshay Urja Shops was also recently launched by the Ministry through advertisements in various newspapers in Hindi, English and Regional languages.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds allocated for promotion of solar energy

t1814. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main object to promote non-conventional energy is to protect the forest covered areas;

(b) whether the main object to promote non-conventional energy is to protect the forest covered areas;

(b) if so, whether the solar energy system is found successful to protect the forests;

(c) if so, the quantity of energy produced and distributed during the last three years under the Solar Photo Voltaic (S.P.V.) and Solar Thermal Electric (S.T.E.) programmes by Government in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether Government propose to allocate more funds to promote solar energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Government is promoting use of non-conventional energy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sources with the objective of supplementing the energy requirement in different parts of the country including the forest covered areas. Among, various non-conventional energy sources, in the forest areas use of biogas, biomass gasifier and some of the decentralized solar energy systems such as solar lantern, solar home lighting, solar street lighting, solar cooker etc. are expected to reduce the demand for fuelwood and contribute to protection of forests.

(c) During the last three years a total number of 1000 solar home lighting systems, 910 street lights and 1406 solar cookers have been installed in Himachal Pradesh.

(d) and (e) During 2006-07, a total amount of Rs. 90.25 crores has been earmarked for the solar energy programmes. In addition, some amount may also be spent from the funds allocated for the remote village electrification programme on solar energy projects.

Bio-fuel as alternate energy

t1815. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of materials that are actually being used as bio-fuel in the form of alternative energy in the country as on 31st January, 2006;

(b) the names of materials together with their quantity permitted to be used for blending with diesel and petrol;

(c) whether any actual benefit has been derived out of these alternatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Bio-fuel includes all types of fuel resources derived from the biological world. Internationally, bio-ethanol and bio-diesel are considered as bio-fuels that can substitute or blend with petroleum based fuels. Bio-ethanol is produced mainly from sugar molasses in India. Bio-diesel can be produced from edible and non-edible oils. In India non-edible oil seeds are preferred route for production of bio-diesel. These include, among others, Jatropha curcas and Pongamia pinnata, etc. 5% blending of

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